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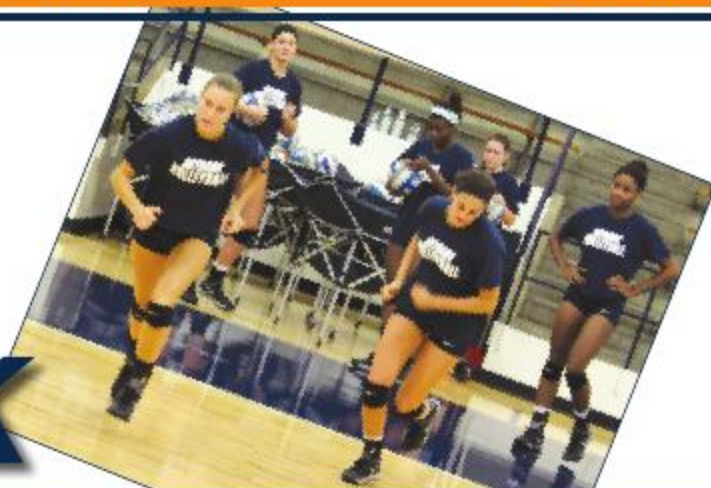
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The Independent Voice of the University of Tennessee at Martin

Volume 88, Issue 1



Welcome  
**Back**



to  
**School**

Move-in Mania story,  
page 3

Pacer Photos/ Amber  
Sherman, Kait Scott and  
Chance Farmer

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# Viewpoints

## EDITORIAL

# Hello again from 2015-16 editorial board

It's that time of year again. We here at The Pacer would like to welcome you all back to campus.

We hope that your summer break was tons of fun, and that you are now ready to get back into the habit of studying, homework and going to class. For some of you this is your first

semester at UTM. Whether you're an incoming freshman, a transfer student, or a nontraditional student stepping foot on campus for the first time, try not to let nerves get the best of you. Step outside of your box, get to know your professor and get involved. All of these things can go a long way.

For some of you, this may be your last semester here. If you're graduating in December, don't slack off this semester or use the age-old senioritis excuse. Make memories this semester. Put your best foot forward and work hard. No matter where you fall on the spectrum, UTM

is a great place for all students. From academics to extracurricular activities we're fortunate to be students at such a well-rounded university. Again, we the editorial board of The Pacer, are wishing you a safe, fun and successful fall semester.

## COLUMN

### Interim chancellor gives students words of encouragement



Dr. Robert Smith  
Interim Chancellor

Welcome to the 2015-2016 academic year at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

To our returning students, thank you for your continuing trust in us as we share your journey to success through higher education. To our freshmen, thank you for choosing UT Martin as the right environment in which to learn and to fulfill your dreams.

Change is in the air on campus. You will see it and feel it as the year progresses. All of us — your administrators, faculty and staff — are dedicated to providing the care, concern, leadership, support, facilities and enthusiasm necessary to ensure that you receive the highest quality education possible in a tough economic climate.

We are proud of our accomplishments, having been ranked by The Princeton Review as a Best Southeastern College for 13 consecutive years. Our Online MBA program is recognized nationally, more UT Martin students entered veterinary school this fall than ever before, and the National

Science Foundation awarded the university a \$586,000 grant to fund scholarships and academic support for students studying in science, technology, engineering and mathematics-based areas.

We encourage you to take advantage of all that UT Martin offers outside the classroom, including, on the academic side, opportunities for faculty/student research; domestic and international travel programs; field trips; speakers and workshops; and participation in our many and diverse clubs and societies important to your major. Socially and recreationally, you have options ranging from Greek life to club sports, SAC movies, SGA events, collegiate athletics and a state-of-the-art Student Recreation Center.

We invite you to be involved and engaged, and we promise you that we will do the same.

Have an exciting and rewarding year at UT Martin.

## COLUMN

### Lay stress to rest: ways to keep you sane this semester

**Ashton Priest**

Viewpoints Editor

As a new school year starts for UTM, it is nice to remember some tips to keep you from going completely insane.

Get to know your roommates. You can create a lifetime of friendships within the nine months you live on campus, and your roommates make great companions on the adventures this journey will take you on.

Distinguish wants from needs and watch your bank account. Whether your parents are providing, you have a job or whatever the case may be, spend money on the necessities. It's okay to splurge occasionally. Just don't go overboard.

Learn how to balance your time. There is a time to study, a time to have fun and a time to sleep. Develop good study habits and don't wait until the night before a quiz, presentation or test to gather information. With the latter, get plenty of sleep, ideally the recommended seven to nine hours. The brain needs time to rejuvenate, repair and rest so it can make studying and retaining information optimal.

Learn your classroom and attendance policies. Use your 3

excused absences (if given) to your advantage, like taking sick or personal days. Otherwise, go to class and take advantage of professors' office hours for help. They will help you in any way they can and are great resources

Professors are more likely to help you if you try to get to know them.

Find attractions in Martin and in the surrounding areas, like Discovery Park in Union City. Also, take advantage

Nothing is worse than pulling an all-nighter to write a ten-page paper. Spread assignments out so stress doesn't consume you all at once.

Stay active and eat healthy. The Student Recreation Center has a variety of equipment and activities to do to keep off the pounds while still having fun. The Skyhawk Dining Hall has healthy food options as well. Be sure to use your meal plan wisely and use your swipes evenly so that you don't run out before the end of the semester.

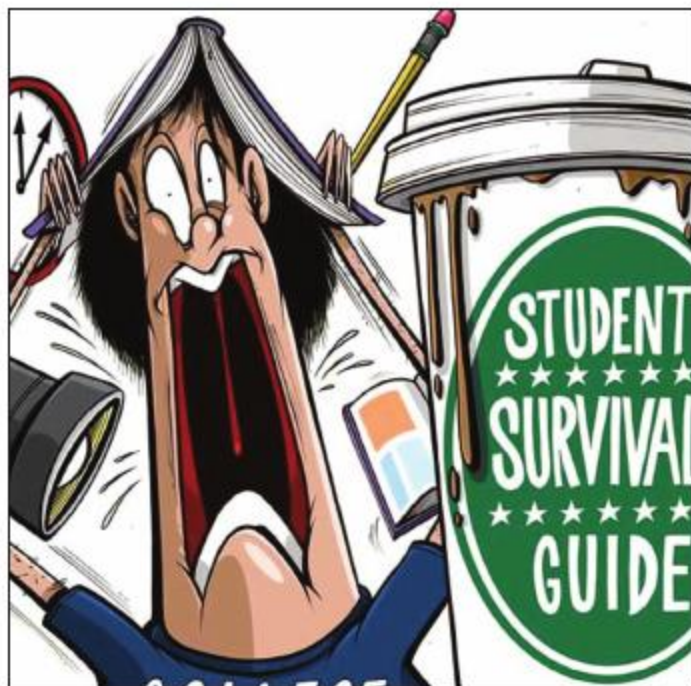
Always prepare for the Tennessee weather. Pack an umbrella and a jacket. You never know when the sunny 70 degree weather will turn into 25 degree torrential downpour.

Don't be afraid to try new things. Join a club, organization, or even an intramural sport to meet and connect with other people.

Arrive to campus early if you want a parking spot, especially if you want to be closer to particular buildings.

Pay attention to campus news. Reading student publications like The Pacer, can keep you up to date with the latest happenings around UTM!

Don't forget to have fun, but remember what you are here for: a quality education.



Graphic/ ClipartSheep

when it comes to how to handle life in general as well as the class subject.

Get to know the faculty. Meet with your advisor before adding or dropping a class.

of campus life and activities, such as athletic events, the 9:09 entertainment shows, and the Sunday movie showings.

Do not procrastinate.

# the pacer

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# News

## Freshmen get settled on campus during Move-in Mania



SAE volunteers Spencer Atkins, Jake Warshaw and Tyler Polanco take a brief break from helping students move in. | Pacer Photo/Kait Scott

**Chelsea Monroe**

Staff Writer

UTM hosted its annual Move-In Mania event for incoming freshmen on Friday, August 21.

Hundreds of freshmen packed into the dorms spread across campus to begin their new lives as college students. Some were grinning ear to ear at the thought of a newfound freedom away from their parents, while many others expressed that they were nervous to see what the next few days would hold.

The new additions to our school had the pleasure of standing aside while members of various student organizations assisted them in hauling

their belongings to their new homes. Many volunteers representing several different student organizations and Greek chapters were present to help newcomers and their families drag carts and carry boxes across campus. Many of these volunteers were able to share stories of their time at UTM, providing students with a valuable resource of information.

Parents of incoming students were certainly grateful for a welcoming committee ready to lend a hand and help get their kids plugged in right away. After shaking hands or giving hugs, parents headed out of the way as their students prepared for the fall semester.

### Workshops and Roundtables

**Sept. 1 & 3**

Identifying Sentence Fragments, Comma Splices, and Run-ons

**Sept. 8 & 10**

Focusing on Commas: Some Practical Guides

**Sept. 15**

Gathering Your Thoughts and Developing Thesis Statements

**Sept. 22 & 24**

Autumnal Tints: Greeting the New Season with Readings

**Sept. 29 & Oct. 1**

Building Great Sentences: Exploring the Writer's Craft

**Oct. 6 & 8**

Common Grammar Errors: Interactive Workshop

**Oct. 13 & 15**

Using Verbs: Correct and Consistent Tense

**Oct. 22**

Incorporating and Citing Material from Sources

**Oct. 27 & 29**

Literary Ghosts: A Roundtable

**Nov. 3 & 5**

Creating Effective PowerPoint Presentations

**Nov. 10 & 12**

Preparing for the GRE Verbal Exams

**Nov. 19**

Honoring Our Artists: A Reception and Roundtable

**Nov. 24**

Holiday Stories: Readings and a Special Display

**Dec. 1 & 3**

Preparing for Essay Exams

**Note: The workshops and roundtable discussions are held from 12:15 to 12:50 p.m. Also, recorded lectures about writing and language are available daily.**

## Hortense Parrish Writing Center offers students distraction-free learning

**Justin Glover**

News Editor

The Hortense Parrish Writing Center (Humanities 209) opens today for the Fall 2015 semester.

The center, which is available to all students who need help with writing and language skills, will remain open every day barring holidays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., except for Fridays, when it closes at 4 p.m. The center will close for the semester at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Most students come to the Writing Center on a drop-in basis. Faculty members are also invited and encouraged to refer students who need help with writing.

Services provided by the center staff include free one-with-one conferencing about writing for UTM students in any class, as well as weekly workshops, support for English 100 and 110 students (who are required to spend one hour per week in the center), computer assistance, basic skills review, the Online Writing Lab (OWL) and more.

English professor Anna Clark, the Writing Center Coordinator, said that the center is designed not as a proofreading center, but as a resource for students to improve their overall writing skills.

"Center assistants work more specifically with students than with individual papers, but a writing



Writing Center coordinator Anna Clark (right) assists junior English major Tamara Beard with an assignment. | Pacer Photo/Chance Farmer

sample may serve as the starting point for a tutoring session," Clark said.

Writing consultants look for patterns of errors and help students understand and correct errors in order to become better editors and writers. In addition to human assistance, the center has books, resource materials and computers available for student use, Clark said.

The Writing Center is planning to host several writing workshops and roundtables on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:15 to 12:50 p.m. These discussions, which cover a wide variety of specialty topics, are

free and open to the public.

For Fall 2015, Writing Center consultants Mary Beard, Jisun Collier, Steve Flowers, John Galyean, Beth Walker and Nicholas Wilson are available during Writing Center hours to help students with their writing. They are joined by student assistants Spencer Atkins, Cody Jarman, Lauren Maddox, Alexandra Mullins Thompson, Madilyn Peay, Maya Thornton and Jonathan York.

For additional information, check out the Writing Center Web site at [www.utm.edu/departments/writingcenter/index.php](http://www.utm.edu/departments/writingcenter/index.php).

## UTM student prepares to compete in Miss America pageant

**Justin Glover**

News Editor

Hannah Robison, a senior chemistry major at UTM, is preparing to compete in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey on September 13.

Robison, who won the title of Miss Tennessee on June 20, will compete with representatives from the other 49 states (as well as Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands) to be crowned Miss

America. The winner will receive a \$50,000 scholarship and the chance to promote their chosen platform across the country.

Robison received \$18,000 in scholarship money for her victory in the Miss Tennessee Pageant in Jackson. In addition, she will serve as Gov. Bill Haslam's official spokesperson for character education. Robison plans to use her position as titleholder to promote her personal platform, "Campaign Against Pain: Arthritis Awareness."

Robison is the fourth UTM student to hold the title of Miss Tennessee. Previous UTM students to win the title include Linda Workman Shumate (1967), Elise Neal Davis (1979) and Valli Kugler Kelly (2002).

In the history of the Miss America pageant, two Miss Tennessee representatives have won the title: Barbara Jo Walker in 1947 and Kellye Cash in 1987.

Viewers are able to vote on Facebook and Twitter once per day for Miss America contestants to reach the

competition's semifinal round. To vote for Robison, post or tweet "Tennessee #MissAmericaVote."

Robison's private interview for the competition, as well as the competition's preliminary swimsuit and evening gown competitions, will take place on September 8. She will perform her talent on September 9, and her onstage interview will take place on September 10. The final round of competition, including the crowning of Miss America 2016, will be broadcast live on ABC on September 13.



Photo Credit/University Relations



# News

## Statewide News Briefs

### Associated Press

### Shelby County jailers plead guilty to drug smuggling, face 20-year sentence

Federal prosecutors say four Shelby County corrections deputies have pleaded guilty to attempting to smuggle prescription drugs into a jail.

The U.S. attorney's office in Memphis said Thursday that Torriano Vaughn, Brian Grammer, Anthony Thomas and Marcus Green participated in a scheme to smuggle what they thought were OxyContin pills into Shelby County Jail on multiple occasions between May and December 2014.

Law enforcement agents posed as associates of cooperating inmates, who would make arrangements with the jailers to have various amounts of placebo pills smuggled into jail in exchange for hundreds of dollars.

The four jailers pleaded to attempted possession of a controlled substance with the intent to distribute. They each face up to 20 years in prison.

### Nashville mayor increases park territory

More than 4,500 acres of open space in Nashville has been preserved over the past eight years.

This week, Mayor Karl Dean's office announced that 568 acres of open space was added to Beaman Park Nature Center, ensuring that the park will remain the second-largest in Nashville, behind only Warner Parks.

Dean has increased parkland in Davidson County by more than 25 percent since taking office. He has increased greenways in Nashville by 50 percent by adding 40 new miles of trails.

He also has added 14 new parks and undertaken six park expansions.

The recent Beaman Park acquisition expands it from more than 1,600 acres to about 2,200 acres.

### Memphis City Council votes 11-1 to remove Nathan Bedford Forrest statue

A vote by the Memphis City Council has cleared the way for the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest from a public park.

Council members voted 11-1 Tuesday to remove the statue of the rebel general, slave trader and early Ku Klux Klan member, according to local news outlets.

Chairman Myron Lowery, who sponsored the ordinance, said the vote reflected changing attitudes in Memphis.

"I think his (Forrest's) past has been well documented, and there should be no place to honor racism, bigotry and hate," Lowery said.

Although the vote has concluded, officials say the statue's future is uncertain. The city may need approval from the Tennessee Historical Commission, which next meets in October, to remove the statue.

The vote follows the council's July 7 approval of a resolution to move the bodies of Forrest and his wife, Mary Ann Montgomery, from the park back to their original Memphis burial plot.

The city needs support from the Forrest family and Chancery Court approval to move the bodies, which the cemetery agreed to do at no cost to the city.

### National Park officials brace for greater traffic along Appalachian Trail

National Park officials are expecting a spike in traffic along the Appalachian Trail after the release next month of a Hollywood film about two hikers who attempt to conquer the 2,190-mile route.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials saw a 60 percent increase in traffic in the area after Billy Bryson's book, "A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail," was published, according to The Daily Times in Maryville.

The movie, out Sept. 2, is based on the 1998 book and stars Robert Redford and Nick Nolte.

## NPHC pulls out welcome mat for students to begin fall semester

### Bamiana Woods

Arts & Entertainment Editor

UTM's National Pan-Hellenic Council will host a forum Friday, August 28 to expose the campus to the history and culture of the "Divine Nine" organizations, as well as to show Greek unity.

NPHC, commonly referred to as the "Divine Nine," or "D9," is a collaborative organization of nine historically African American, international Greek-lettered fraternities and sororities.

The forum will start at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Andy Holt Humanities Building. Its purpose is to give incoming freshmen insight on the dos and don'ts of Greek life, as well as college as a whole. This includes topics such as how to express

interest in an organization, time management and networking.

"Some freshmen come in and don't have much knowledge about Greek life," said Brian Saunders, president of the Kappa Omicron chapter of Phi Beta Sigma. "This is their opportunity to find out information without it being as intense as each organization's personal interest meeting. It's also a time to meet upperclassmen and be involved on campus."

Later that night, the organizations will host a "D9 Madness" on the back patio, from 10 p.m. until midnight. During this time, each NPHC sorority and fraternity will recite chants that express their love and gratitude for their individual organization.

"There are times when NPHC organizations have to come

together as one and implement events for the students to come and be inspired," said James Coleman, NPHC President and member of Zeta Phi Beta. "It is our duty to convey unity to the campus, so that we all may rise together as a minority. Greeks are the leaders of the African American community on campus, and it is up to us to support, encourage, inspire and change lives of one another."

On Saturday, the organizations will host a Cookout/Back to School Pool Party with Christian "DJ Chi-City" Thompson. It will be from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. at The Station.

For more information on UTM NPHC events and news, follow their social media account at @UTM\_NPHC.

## Fall faculty meeting sets agenda for semester

### Tomi Parrish

Faculty Adviser

Serving students better will help reverse UTM's recent enrollment declines, Interim Chancellor Robert Smith told faculty at the first general meeting of the fall 2015 semester.

In a presentation Aug. 18 titled "It is all about our students," Smith outlined his campus agenda for the 2015-16 academic year. The agenda is based on a Gallup-Purdue University and Lumina Foundation study of the relationship of collegiate experiences to graduates' workplace engagement and life success.

Contrary to popular belief that students should prefer to attend private schools, Ivy League schools, or larger public universities, the study found that the type of school attended "hardly mattered" in how graduates answered questions of work satisfaction and success.

Instead, the study identified six factors that graduates reported as most important to their success:

- During college, they were supported by faculty members who care.
- Their professors made them excited about learning.
- Their professors encouraged their dreams.
- They had internships or part-time jobs that allowed them to apply what they were learning.
- They worked on a long-term project (such as research or service learning).
- They were active in extracurricular activities.

"We're already doing many of the things identified by the Gallup-Purdue Index," Smith said. "We have to do more.

## Cost-cutting ideas?

UTM will be considering creative measures to save money to address an anticipated budget shortfall this year, so *The Pacer* would like to hear your ideas.

Please send ideas to [thepacer@ut.utm.edu](mailto:thepacer@ut.utm.edu) or [tomimc@utm.edu](mailto:tomimc@utm.edu). All ideas will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate Budget and Economic Concerns Committee.

Our enrollment drops are not all from Tennessee Promise or problems with recruitment. Much of the decline has come from losing students who were here and left.

"When we know these six factors will engage them, lead to graduation, and with high satisfaction, why would we not make sure these six experiences happen at UTM?" he said.

Specifically, Smith's agenda to improve retention and recruitment involves all aspects of campus life. From administrators to faculty and staff, Smith asked UTM employees to:

- Accept a moral imperative to support UTM students by giving early and regular feedback on their work;
- Promote faculty/young scholar relationships, particularly by encouraging more faculty/student research projects;
- Ensure real-world applications of knowledge through developing capstone courses and requiring internships in every academic department;
- Create living-learning communities on campus that

engage the entire campus; and

• Have quality learning spaces by providing attractive, modern facilities; powerful, useful technology; and intentional use of space.

"Our emphasis now is on how we take care of the students we have," Smith said. "When we do that, more students will want to come here."

Other challenges Smith said he will face this year include an anticipated \$1.5 million budget shortfall to be addressed in October or early November and the selection of a new chancellor for the university.

Smith took UTM's helm as interim chancellor after the previous chancellor, Dr. Tom Rakes, resigned May 31 and returned to teaching.

In a passionate closing to his presentation, Smith pushed the audience to fully engage in UTM's future.

"No great university was built on budget cuts. Let's make this the last year that we face that challenge and the beginning of our resolve to take charge of our own destiny," Smith said, a plea that brought the crowd to its feet with applause.



# News

## 'All about the bean'



## 22nd annual Soybean Festival cranks up Sept. 6

Justin Glover

News Editor

The 22nd annual Tennessee Soybean Festival arrives in Martin on Sunday, Sept. 6.

Initially held in September 1994, the Soybean Festival hosts numerous activities for Martin residents and UTM students to get out and explore the city, including concerts and exhibitions hosted by the community and the campus.

The festival unofficially begins on Saturday, Aug. 29, with the **Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant** at Westview High School. Contestants ages 0-21 will compete for the title of queen in their respective age divisions. Admission for spectators is \$5.

At 6 p.m. Sept. 3, the Pecan Grove Bed and Breakfast will host a **Heroes Dinner** for the Martin police and fire departments, as well as the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

The Martin Recreation Complex will host a **truck and tractor pull** at 7 p.m. Sept. 5. Admission is free for children age 5 and younger; for all others, admission is \$10.

The **Soybean Kickoff Spectacular** officially begins the 2015 Tennessee Soybean Festival on Sunday, Sept. 6, at the Martin Recreation Complex. The spectacular will feature a fireworks display as well as a performance by 7 Bridges. Admission to the kickoff is free. On Sept. 7, the **11th annual Soybean Talent Contest** takes place at 6 p.m. Participants will compete in four age divisions, from 8 and under to 22 and older.

The invitation-only **Mayor's Luncheon** will be held from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Sept. 8. The event's special guest speaker will be Randy Boyd, founder and executive chairman of Radio Systems Corp. in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Later that day is the annual **Soybean Festival Parade**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. This year, the parade's grand marshal will be Dorothy Alexander. The parade will be followed at 8 p.m. by a performance from **Mike Snider and the String Band** at Festival Park.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, begins with the **Faith and Community Prayer Breakfast** at 6:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Methodist Church. Later that day, the **9/11 Never Forget Ceremony** at 6 p.m. in Festival Park will pay tribute to servicemen and women throughout the community and the United States. The ceremony will be followed by a performance by **Sanctus Real** at 7 p.m.



Left: The UTM Marching Band performs at the 2014 Tennessee Soybean Festival. | **Pacer File Photo (2014 Tennessee Soybean Festival)**

Below: The musical lineup at the 2015 Soybean Festival includes Sanctus Real on Sept. 9; Joan Jett & The Blackhearts on Sept. 10; and Joe Nichols on Sept. 12. Also be sure to check out the Guitar as Art exhibition at the Fine Arts Building on campus. | **Photo Credit/tnsoybeanfestival.org**

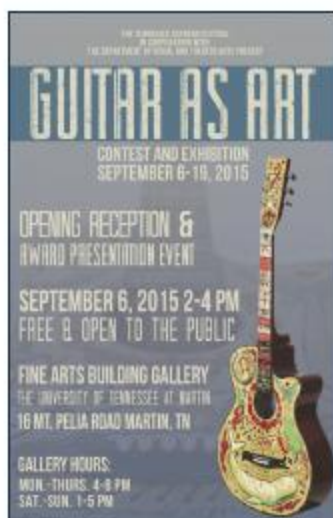


### JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS

The **Cancer Crash Car Bash** will be held in downtown Martin from 5 until 10 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10, as well as from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to midnight Friday, Sept. 11, and 5 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Relay for Life.

Also on Thursday, the **UTM Skyhawk football team** will take on Bethel University in their first home game of the season at 6:30 p.m. As with all UTM sporting events, admission is free to all UTM students with a Skyhawk Card. **UTM Student Night** concludes with a concert by Joan Jett and the Blackhearts at 9 p.m.

Friday is marked by several musical performances, such as **Bluegrass in the Park** at 4:30 p.m. featuring **Donna Ulisse and The Poor Mountain Boys**, as well as concerts featuring **The**



**School of Rock** at 6:30 p.m. and **Night Ranger** at 9 p.m. In addition, the 22nd annual **Chicken Crazy, Hog Wild BBQ Cook-Off** will take place at 5 p.m. at Virginia Weldon Park. Contestants will compete



### Sanctus Real



### Joe Nichols

### Want to know more?

Many more events also are planned for this year's festival. For a full schedule of events, visit the festival website at [www.tnsoybeanfestival.org](http://www.tnsoybeanfestival.org). For questions or more information, call 731-588-1263 or email [info@tnsoybeanfestival.org](mailto:info@tnsoybeanfestival.org).

in three special categories: Backyard Variety, Best Booth and Backyard Bird. Awards for the cook-off will be presented at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

The final full day of the Soybean Festival, Saturday, Sept. 12, begins with the **American Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast** at 6:30 a.m. at American Legion Post 55. Admission is \$3 for children 6 and under and \$5 for all others.

This is shortly followed by the **Soybean Festival 5k Road Race/1 Mile Fun Walk** at the Recreation Complex at 7:30 a.m. Weakley County Animal Clinic will host a **pet show** beginning

at 3 p.m. at Virginia Weldon Park. The evening concludes with two back-to-back concert sets by **Backroad Anthem** and **Joe Nichols** beginning at 7 p.m. at Festival Park.

The festival concludes Sunday with a **Sodexo Sunday Brunch** in the Skyhawk Dining Hall inside UTM's Boling University Center. The brunch is slated for 10:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m.

The Soybean Festival **midway** will be open daily from 5 p.m. till midnight Wednesday to Friday. In addition, Martin merchants will hold a citywide **Sidewalk Sale** each day Thursday through Saturday.



# Sports

## Skyhawk football focused and ready for a big 2015 season

**Jared Peckenpaugh**

Sports Editor

With a new school year also begins a new football season, and the UTM football team wants to make sure 2015 will be a big year.

So, because the 2015 Skyhawk football season is rapidly approaching, here are a few notes breaking down last year's and this year's seasons.

### Last Season

Despite starting the 2014 season 1-5, the Skyhawks rallied and finished the season 6-6 overall and had a 5-3 conference record, which was good enough to finish tied for third in the OVC with Eastern Illinois. The Skyhawks also clinched their third Sgt. York Trophy in school history by sweeping their three OVC in-state rivals (Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech and Austin Peay).

### Preseason Rankings

The Skyhawks were picked to finish fourth in the conference in both the OVC Media Poll, which is voted on by members of the media who cover the OVC, and the OVC Preseason Poll, which is voted on by the football head coaches and Sports Information directors. In both polls, defending OVC champion Jacksonville State finished first in the voting and were followed by Eastern Kentucky (second in media, third in preseason poll) and Eastern Illinois (third in media, second in preseason poll).

### Offense

The Skyhawk offense will have six returning starters from last year's team, including senior quarterback Jarod Neal. Neal, who split the starting role with Dylan Favre last year, will be the sole starting quarterback coming into this year. Last season, Neal passed for 1,880 yards and 14 touchdowns. Neal also had a 63.4 percent pass completion percentage and ran for six touchdowns. Neal, who currently ranks seventh in career passing yards and touchdowns at UTM, will also be assisted by wide receivers William Tanner, who had 38 receptions for 527 yards and four touchdowns, and Kyle Kerrick, who had 35 receptions for 410 yards and three touchdowns.

Trent Garland, who last season ran 82 times for 486 yards and three touchdowns in the backup role, is expected to be the starting running back this year, replacing leading rusher Abou Torre.

But the position this year that took the biggest hit was the offensive line, who lost four of their five starting linemen.

### Defense

The Skyhawk defense will have seven returning starters from last year's team. Among those returning are safeties Marquis Clemons and Taino Fears-Perez, and defensive back Walter Evans, who each recorded 60-plus tackles last season.

Linebacker Nick Dance and defensive lineman Deantae Glover are also expected to have big seasons this year. Dance was named an OVC All-Newcomer after recording 56 tackles, five tackles for loss and forcing two fumbles and an interception. Glover recorded 34 tackles, six tackles for loss and three sacks.

### Special Teams

Senior Jackson Redditt returns to the Skyhawks this year to take over the kicking and punting duties. Redditt completed 12 of 15 (80 percent) field goals last year with his longest being 52 yards. Redditt also completed 44 of 45 PAT attempts.

### Schedule

This year's football schedule will have a similar look to last year's schedule, featuring two road contests against SEC foes.

UTM will open the season on the road against the Ole Miss Rebels, which is the first meeting between the two schools. The Skyhawks will only have five days of rest after that game before they strap on the pads again for a Thursday night game against Bethel. The Skyhawks will have an open week to rest before hosting defending OVC champion Jacksonville State. They will then face in-state conference rivals Tennessee Tech, Tennessee State and Austin Peay the next three weeks. The Skyhawks will host conference foe Murray State before going on the road and facing another SEC foe, the Arkansas Razorbacks. The Skyhawks will then wrap up their 2015 regular season with three more conference games: against Eastern Kentucky in Richmond, a home contest against Eastern Illinois, and against Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau.



Pacer Photo/Ashley Marshall

## Around the NEST

### Football



UTM  
Skyhawks

at



Ole Miss  
Rebels

11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015

Vaught. Hemmingway Stadium, Oxford, Mississippi

TV: SEC Alternate Network

Radio: Skyhawk Radio Network

### Soccer

#### Previous Games

Wednesday, Aug. 12

Skyhawk Field, Martin, Tennessee

Mississippi State-1 UTM-0

Monday, Aug. 17

Summers-Taylor Stadium, Johnson City, Tennessee

UTM-2 ETSU-3

6 p.m. Friday Aug. 21 - at Western Kentucky

WKU Soccer Complex, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
WKU-3 UTM-1

1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23 - at Evansville

Arad McCutchan Stadium, Evansville, Indiana  
(unavailable at press time)

#### Future Games

*Troy Trojan Classic*

*Troy Track/Soccer Complex, Troy, Alabama*

7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28 - Troy

Noon Sunday, Aug. 30 - South Alabama

### Volleyball

#### Future Games

*Georgia Tech Tournament*

*O'Keefe Gymnasium, Atlanta, Georgia*

8:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28 - Coastal Carolina

1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28 - Citadel

11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 29 - Georgia Tech

4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29 - Siena

3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1 - McNeese State

Gillom Sports Center, Oxford, Mississippi

7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1 - at Ole Miss

Gillom Sports Center, Oxford, Mississippi

TV: SECN+

*Southern Illinois Tournament*

*Davies Gym, Carbondale, Illinois*

4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4 - Western Kentucky

10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5 - Dayton

7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5 - Southern Illinois

7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7 - at Alabama A&M

T. M. Elmore Gymnasium, Huntsville, Alabama



# Sports

## Volleyball looks to get its swagger back

### Sports Information

Watch a few minutes of a UTM volleyball practice and you will notice the signs of an energized program.

Whether it be a crisp pass here or a rally-saving dig there, first-year Skyhawk head coach Jaclynn Yocum has provided the Skyhawks with a shot of energy and excitement as UTM prepares for the journey back to the top of the Ohio Valley Conference standings.

Yocum, who honed her craft to the tune of a 118-29 career record in four years at Columbus State Community College, has only been on the job for a little over three months but has hit the ground running. One of her first moves after she was tabbed as the seventh head coach in Skyhawk volleyball history was reaching out to the seven returning players and assistant coach Julia Noc.

"I got a little bit of a late start so it's been a scramble to get everything in place for this season," said Yocum, who earlier this summer was spotlighted as one of only four NCAA Division-I head coaches to earn a "Thirty Under 30" distinction by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. "I must say that Coach Noc has really picked up the slack and helped in the transition – she's been a gem. We are working to instill a different attitude in the girls. We need to make the girls believe that we can and will succeed. Simply improving is not where I want this team to be."

The seven returning players have embraced Yocum's fresh approach and philosophies on the game. The Skyhawks, who have missed out on the OVC Tournament for the past two seasons, officially began their preseason Aug. 11 and have shown vast improvement.

"Are we where we want to be as a team? No, not yet, but we are improving every time we



Photo Courtesy/ Columbus State Community College

hit the floor," Yocum said. "The girls are coming to the gym ready to work. They're hustling and setting a positive tone at practice, which is creating great team chemistry."

Yocum is not the only new face to the Skyhawk program in 2015, as almost half (six of 13) of the student-athletes who make up this year's roster are newcomers. As a result, Yocum has tinkered with several different combinations and expects to see a handful of players who will take on multiple positions.

Statistically, the most experienced group projects to be at the libero/defensive specialist position. Despite being sidelined late last season because of an injury, senior Chelsea Bowles has played in 329 of a possible 351 sets since she joined the Skyhawk program. She ranks fifth in UTM volleyball history with 3.51 digs per set.

Junior Colleen Larson also returns, as she has seen time in 222 of a possible 233 sets since 2013. She accumulated 216 digs (2.12 per set) and showed the ability to be a difference-maker last year, earning a spot on the Memphis Invitational all-tournament squad.

Those two veterans are joined

by freshman Jamie Scherb, who has impressed the coaching staff after leading Carmel High School to its first Indiana Class 4A state championship in 2014.

"Chelsea is a great senior leader and is the heart of the team," Yocum said. "She sets the tone every day at practice and is doggedly working to get her libero spot back after coming off a PCL tear last season. Colleen consistently holds herself and her teammates to high expectations. She gets the job done in serve receive and continues to improve her defensive presence. Jamie has a confident court demeanor and backs that up with her strong defensive skills. She has a bright future ... and will compete for floor time as a freshman."

Another returning defensive standout is junior Alisha Erves. The 5-11 middle blocker is one of just four players in the Skyhawks' Division-I history to lead the team in blocks per set in her first two seasons.

A pair of transfers and a true freshman join Erves at middle blocker. Kiah Cheatham joins UTM after two years as a starter at Troy University, pacing the Trojans in blocks. Rachel Noffsinger was one of two Skyhawks to follow Yocum from Columbus State, and is coming off a first team all-conference campaign as a freshman in 2014. Another freshman who has performed well is Sarah Shaw, who posted a stellar prep career at Collierville High School.

"Alisha will be a strong offensive force once her connection becomes more consistent," Yocum said. "She hits a quick ball that will be tough to defend. Kiah has experience at the Division-I level and is still working to get her complete game back after coming off a meniscus tear and surgery last season. She moves quickly along the net and posts a solid middle block. Rachel is quick to the block on the pins,

making her a strong defender at the net. She sees the floor really well offensively, making her a dynamic player on both ends. Sarah is pretty raw but she is extremely athletic. She is learning quickly and has the potential to be a lethal offensive weapon."

Offensively, Madison Wessling returns to guide the outside hitters. The 2013 OVC All-Newcomer was one of the Skyhawks' best players last season, slamming down 270 kills (2.65 per set) while boasting 12 double-digit kills matches.

Sophomore Lael Ceriani displayed vast improvement while playing in 20 matches down the stretch last season while junior Alanna Watt will push for playing time after she helped lead Feather River College to a conference championship in 2014.

"Madison brings experience on the court and is improving her ball control and serve receive daily," Yocum said. "She hits a heavy ball and, offensively, provides consistency on the outside. With Lael, being a lefty on the outside is something you rarely see so that makes her tough to defend. She wants the ball and that's a great thing – she is confident when she attacks and creates opportunities with different shots. Alanna is a gamer who has been a part of some big moments at the collegiate level. The experience she brings to the table has been a huge positive for our program."

At setter, senior Amanda Crask will look to reclaim a starting position she handled in her first two seasons as a Skyhawk. Her 2,191 career assists and 8.49 career assists per set each ranks fifth in the UTM volleyball record book.

Alongside Crask is sophomore Ellie Cain, who joins the Skyhawks after playing for Yocum at Columbus State. In 2014, she was a first team all-region, first team all-conference

and a member of the NJCAA All-National tournament team after leading the nation with 12.53 assists per set.

"Amanda's athleticism is second to none," Yocum said. "She has the ability to run a dynamic offense and is a strong weapon. Ellie is adjusting to seeing new attackers in each position and learning to command the court. She has already developed a strong connection with the attackers."

Yocum boasts a plethora of options at opposite hitter, filling that spot with as many as four options. Redshirt sophomore Mandy Glon showed flashes of potential in 16 matches last season while Shaw, Noffsinger and even Crask have factored into the mix.

"Mandy posts a big block on the right side," Yocum said. "She is learning to be more offensive by training herself to see the block and the court better."

Yocum's first season as a Division-I head coach will fittingly begin with a matchup against her alma mater (Coastal Carolina) in the season-opener. Overall, the Skyhawks will take part in four weekend tournaments as part of a 17-match nonconference schedule that will all take place away from Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Although the OVC's head coaches and sports information directors selected UTM to finish at the bottom in the league's preseason poll, Yocum isn't concerned with how outsiders view the Skyhawks.

"I'm beyond excited to be at UT Martin," Yocum said. "However, your job is to win – that's what I'm excited about. At this point, it's difficult for me to say how we're going to stack up, but I can tell you this – we're going to play hard and leave some skin on the floor every game. The girls have been working very hard since the summer and we're anxious to get on the floor and compete."

## Skyhawk soccer picked to finish third in OVC preseason poll

### Sports Information

The Ohio Valley Conference tabbed the UTM soccer team third in the preseason poll voted on by the league's head coaches and sports information directors. The Skyhawks picked up four first-place votes while wrapping up 150 points overall.

Defending OVC Tournament champion SIUE was picked as the preseason favorite after picking up 10 first-place votes and a total of 187 points. Just behind the Cougars was last year's OVC regular season champion Southeast Missouri, picking up seven first-place votes along with a total of 184 points. The Skyhawks were followed by Jacksonville State (141), Murray State (138) and



Photo Courtesy/Sports Information

Morehead State (121) to round out the top six spots. Belmont, Austin Peay, Eastern Kentucky, Tennessee Tech and Eastern Illinois rounded out the poll.

UTM enters the season under the direction of sixth-year head

coach Phil McNamara, who has guided the Skyhawks to double-digit wins in each of the past four seasons.

During that time the Skyhawks have made the OVC Tournament every year and

brought home four OVC titles.

Last season the Skyhawks finished the regular season as the fourth seed before falling to Jacksonville State in penalty kicks. During the 2014 campaign the Skyhawks won 12

matches while earning the 2014 Offensive Player of the Year Award and had four players earn All-OVC accolades.

This season the Skyhawks return just one starter in junior Saphyra Coombs-James. UTM also returns sophomore Olivia Bohlman, who scored a pair of goals in 16 matches. This season the program will lean on its newcomers, adding 15 new Skyhawks, many with international playing experience.

The Skyhawks kicked off the 2015 season Aug. 21 with a 3-1 loss to Western Kentucky, the first of a season-high eight consecutive road matches. UTM next faces Troy and South Alabama, Aug. 28 and 30, respectively, at the Troy Trojan Classic.



# Arts & Entertainment

## 'Straight Outta Compton' scores big at box office

Barriana Woods

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Friday, the highly anticipated *Straight Outta Compton* hit theaters everywhere. Landing \$60.2 million at the box office over the weekend, it turned out to be bigger than critics estimated.

*Straight Outta Compton* explored the lives of the late 1980s, early 1990s hip-hop group N.W.A, an acronym for "N-word with Attitudes."

The group consisted of Andre "Dr. Dre" Young, O'Shea "Ice Cube" Jackson, Eric "Eazy-E" Wright, Antoine "DJ Yella" Carraby, and Lorenzo "MC Ren" Patterson, all from Compton, California.

The movie is named after the group's first studio album, "Straight Outta Compton," which debuted in 1998. This is the album that took the teens from selling records out of the trunk of their car to becoming rap icons.

N.W.A can easily be labeled the first rap group to have political references mentioned in their music. The group came out during a time where gangs were rising and the pop culture was "taking back the n-word," and they were the voice for the new generation.

Director F. Gary Gary managed to re-enact the highs and lows of N.W.A. The men were controversial, they made mistakes in their personal lives, but they made music people could relate to, ultimately making a mark in hip-hop and American history.

In an interview with *Rolling Stone*, a former member of the group, Ice Cube, explained that their goal with the movie was to let people know why they were angry and why their lyrics were as aggressive as they were. "We were living in the middle of dope dealing, gangbanging, police brutality, Reaganomics and there was nowhere to escape," he said.

Before its release, *Straight Outta Compton* was a trending topic on social media with memes indicating Straight Outta somewhere. The Obama administration even hopped on board in regard to his Iran deal, tweeting "Straight Outta Uranium."

For more information on *Straight Outta Compton*, you can visit the Straight Outta Compton website or check the movie out for yourself at your local theater.



Photo Credit/ StraightOuttaCompton.com



Photo Credit/ StraightOuttaCompton.com

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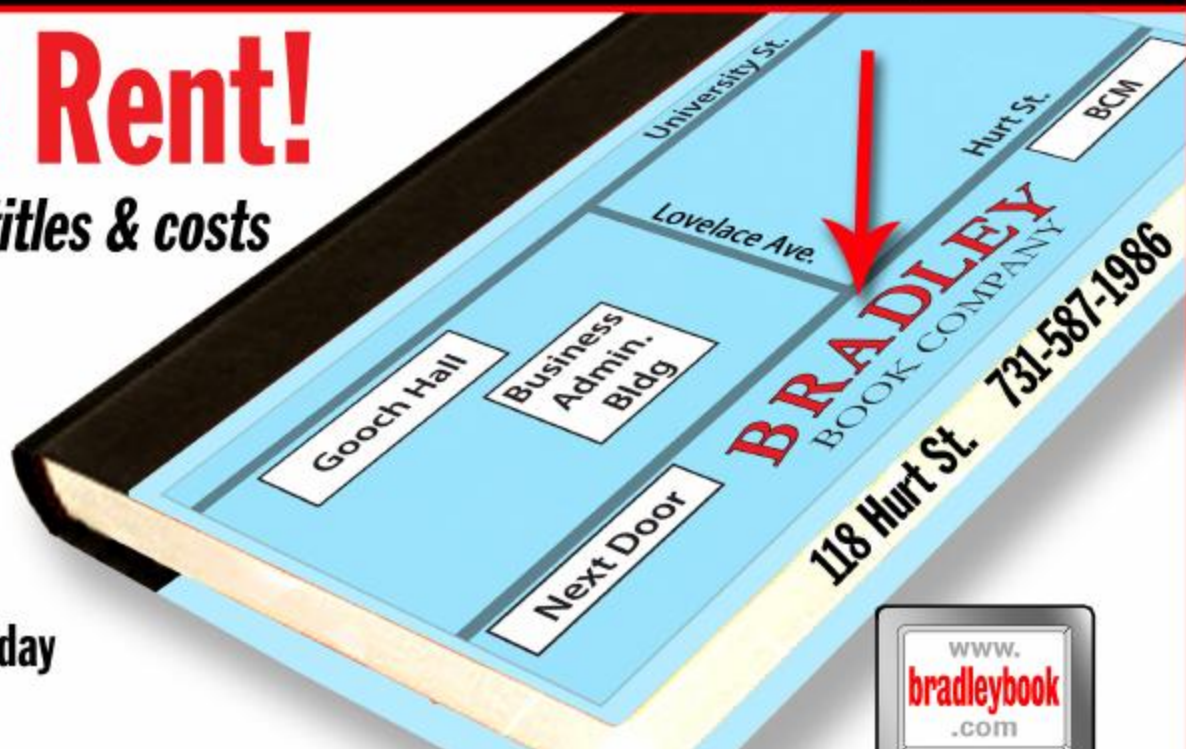
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